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11/1/02

Docket No.: 4178/0L166-USO

11/1/02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Hidetoshi FUKUOKA; Nobuaki TAKAHASHI

Serial No.: 09/730,706

Confirmation No.: 7997

Filed: December 6, 2000

For: ELECTRIC VACUUM CLEANER

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Hon. Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In order to comply with 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, attached hereto is a copy of Form PTO-1449 and copies of the documents listed thereon.

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In accordance with MPEP Sections 609 and 707.05(b), it is requested that each document cited (including any cited in applicant's specification which is not repeated on the attached Form PTO-1449) be given thorough consideration and that it be cited of record in the prosecution history of the present application by initialing Form PTO-1449 next to the document. Such initialing is requested even if the Examiner does not consider a cited document to be sufficiently pertinent to use in a rejection, or otherwise does not consider it to be prior art for any reason, or even if the Examiner does not believe that the guidelines for citation have been fully complied with. This is requested so that each document becomes listed on the face of the patent issuing on the present application.

Since some of the documents were known to the applicant for more than three months before the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement, the statutory fee of \$180.00 under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p) is enclosed. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees required in connection with this Petition or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 04-0100.

A duplicate copy of this document is enclosed.

The undersigned is also enclosing herewith a copy of a Search Report issued on March 18, 2002 for the European Patent Application counterpart of the present patent application (EP 1 110 493 A3), in which the presently disclosed references were cited. Since a translation of the Search Report is also enclosed, or the Search Report utilizes conventional codes to characterize each cited reference,

it is believed that the applicants in the above-identified patent application have now met the "concise explanation" requirement of 37 C.F.R. 1.98.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR 1.56, but the citation of such document is not to be construed as an admission that such document is necessarily relevant or prior art. No representation is intended that the cited documents represent the results of a complete search, and it is anticipated that the Examiner, in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search and will determine the best prior art consistent with 37 CFR 1.104(a) and in the course of each search, will review for relevance every document cited on the attached form even if not initialed.

Early and favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: November 1, 2002



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